

STATINTL

CIA Security Rule Killed

CIA Director Richard Helms has quietly ended one of his agency's sillier security rules. For years, the CIA's research analysts—many of them leading scholars in their fields—were permitted to publish articles in scholarly journals such as the China Quarterly, but could not be identified as working for the agency.

This led to a flap when George Carver, a high agency official, published an article in Foreign Affairs that argued that the Viet Cong did not represent the true nationalists in South Vietnam.

He was only identified as a "specialist" in Vietnam affairs, with his CIA background omitted. Sen. J. William Fulbright and others claimed this was a secret administration attempt to influence people's thinking unknowingly.

Helms, to avoid such controversies in the future, has issued a directive permitting authors of such articles to be identified henceforth as CIA workers. The directive, of course, does not apply to undercover agents.

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Now Is a Time To Keep Our Cool

IN SOME WAYS the most alarming feature of the Pueblo incident is the quickness with which some congressmen demanded a military response on the basis of first reports that our ship had been seized by North Korea.

Is it because they are dead certain that the Pueblo could not possibly have intruded into North Korean territorial waters as claimed? What makes them so sure? With the increased military activity along the 38th parallel, is it completely unbelievable that there might be something in her territorial waters on which we might need information?

Surely these Congressmen are not falling back on the old naive assertion that the United States would never stoop to spying.

It is no secret that the Pueblo is a spy ship. Then do the Congressmen maintain that it is contrary to our principles ever to intrude in the territory of another nation? Is it possible that such highly placed men are unaware that such procedures are normal in international relations and that we conducted spy flights over Soviet Russia for four years before a U-2 high altitude plane crashed there in 1960, and that we continue such flights over Cuba and China?

True the State Department says that the incident occurred in international water. But do the Congressmen expect the American Government to admit that the Pueblo was in North Korean waters even before we begin negotiations for the release of the ship and its crew?

One might have thought that the experience of Cold War events of the past decades had given most Americans a sufficiently sophisticated understanding of international relations so that we would not lose our cool over such incidents. Such mindless belligerency is largely responsible for the tragedy of our deepening involvement in Vietnam.

In fact too many questions about the incident remain unanswered for any reasonable person to form a conclusion so early.

Our State Department says merely that the Pueblo was outside of North Korean waters when it was boarded—it does not say that it was outside of territorial waters when it was first sighted by North Koreans two hours earlier. And if it were attacked in international waters, how explain the strange failure of the military to go to its rescue?

Let us hope that the C.I.A. and the National Security Agency are on the job both outside and inside unfriendly countries gathering all information essential to our security. If they are such incidents are bound to occur. If we understand this we may learn to take them calmly.

The first order of business is not to fly into a moral rage at the first news, but to ascertain the facts. The second is to seek redress for wrong through diplomatic channels. Because of its frightfulness, military retaliation is employed in such cases not as the first, but only as the last resort by sensible men.